

**St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
First Sunday after Christmas Day – December 28, 2025**

Land Acknowledgement

I want to acknowledge I am leading worship from Treaty 4 Territory
the traditional homeland of the Cree, Ojibwe, Saulteaux (SOTO),
Dakota, Nakota, Lakota, and the Métis Nations

Responsive Call to Worship – Advent Liturgy

Praise the Lord from the heavens and in the heights;

Praise God, sun and moon!

God's name alone is exalted;

God is above the earth and heaven.

Hymn 146 Angels from the realms of glory

**1. Angels from the realms of glory,
wing your flight o'er all the earth;
ye who sang creation's story,
now proclaim Messiah's birth.**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**2. Shepherds in the field abiding,
watching o'er your flocks by night:
God with us is now residing;
yonder shines the infant Light.**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**3. Sages, leave your contemplations;
brighter visions beam afar;
seek the great desire of nations;
ye have seen his natal star.**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**4. Saints, before the altar bending,
watching long in hope and fear,**

**suddenly the Lord, descending,
in his temple shall appear.**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

**5. Though an infant now we view him,
he shall fill his Father's throne,
gather all the nations to him;
every knee shall then bow down.**

Refrain:

**Come and worship, come and worship;
worship Christ, the newborn King.**

Prayer of Praise (*minister*)

Hymn 133 Go, tell it on the mountain

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**1. While shepherds kept their watching
o'er silent flocks by night,
behold, throughout the heavens
there shone a holy light.**

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.**

**2 The shepherds feared and trembled,
when lo, above the earth
rang out the angel chorus
that hailed our Savior's birth.**

Refrain:

**Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain**

that Jesus Christ is born.

3 Down in a lowly manger
the humble Christ was born,
and God sent us salvation
that blessed Christmas morn.

Refrain:

Go, tell it on the mountain,
over the hills, and everywhere.
Go, tell it on the mountain
that Jesus Christ is born.

Prayer of Confession (*congregation*)

God of light and life, you have come to us in Christ Jesus to open a path to new life, but we fall back on what is familiar. We confess that we are in love with our old ways and our resolution for change is all too short. Forgive us when our resolve wavers and shine your light on the way we can follow into your future.

- silent confession -

The Lord's Prayer (*Debts/Debtors*)

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.
Thy Kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in
heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors.

And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from
evil.

For thine is the kingdom, the power, and the glory. For
ever and ever. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon (*minister*)

Hymn 143 Infant Holy, infant lowly

1. Infant holy, infant lowly,
for his bed a cattle stall;
oxen lowing, little knowing
Christ, the babe, is Lord of all.
Swift are winging angels singing,
nowells ringing, tidings bringing:

Christ the babe is Lord of all!

Christ the babe is Lord of all!

**2. Flocks were sleeping, shepherds keeping
vigil till the morning new
saw the glory, heard the story,
tidings of a gospel true.**

**Thus rejoicing, free from sorrow,
praises voicing, greet the morrow:
Christ the babe was born for you;
Christ the babe was born for you.**

Responsive Reading

Psalm 148

p. 590 NT & Psalms

¹Praise the Lord!

Praise the Lord from the heavens!

Praise him from the skies!

²Praise him, all his angels!

Praise him, all the armies of heaven!

³Praise him, sun and moon!

Praise him, all you twinkling stars!

⁴Praise him, skies above!

Praise him, vapors high above the clouds!

⁵Let every created thing give praise to the Lord,
for he issued his command, and they came into being.

⁶He set them in place forever and ever.

His decree will never be revoked.

⁷Praise the Lord from the earth,

you creatures of the ocean depths,

⁸fire and hail, snow and clouds,

wind and weather that obey him,

⁹mountains and all hills,

fruit trees and all cedars,

¹⁰wild animals and all livestock,

small scurrying animals and birds,

¹¹kings of the earth and all people,

rulers and judges of the earth,

¹²young men and young women,

old men and children.

¹³Let them all praise the name of the Lord.

For his name is very great;

his glory towers over the earth and heaven!

**¹⁴He has made his people strong,
honoring his faithful ones—
the people of Israel who are close to him.
Praise the Lord!**

New Living Translation (NLT)

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Scripture Lessons

Isaiah 63:7-9 p. 608 pew Bible
Hebrews 2:10-18 p. 378 NT & Psalms
Matthew 2:13-23 p. 5 NT & Psalms

Reader: This is the word of the Lord.

People: Thanks be to God!

Sermon What about Joseph?

Prayers of the People (*minister*)

Prayer of Dedication (*congregation*)

Gracious God, in your constant love, you nurture our life with your richness. As your love for us is always abundant, we learn to share joyfully what we have received from you. Bless the offerings, and all that we have and all that we are so that your bountiful, supportive love may reach those in need through what we do and say in Jesus Christ the Lord. Amen.

Hymn 168 See amid the winter snow

**1. See amid the winter's snow,
born for us on earth below,
see, the Lamb of God appears,
promised from eternal years.**

Refrain:

**Hail, O ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**2. Lo, within a manger lies
he who built the starry skies,
and who, throned in height sub-lime,
sits amid the cherubim.**

Refrain:

**Hail, O ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Say, now holy shepherds, say
tell your joyful news today;
tell us why you left your sheep
on the lonely mountain steep.**

Refrain:

**Hail, O ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**"As we watched at dead of night,
lo, we saw a wonderous sight,
angels, singing peace on earth,
old us of the Saviour's birth.**

Refrain:

**Hail, O ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

**Sacred Infant, all divine,
of God's love the sign
for you came from highest bliss
down to such a world as this!
Hail, O ever blessed morn!**

Refrain:

**Hail, O ever blessed morn!
Hail, redemption's happy dawn!
Sing through all Jerusalem,
Christ is born in Bethlehem.**

Choral Blessing

**Go now in peace. Never be afraid.
God will be with you each hour of every day.**

**God will be there, watching from above.
Go now in peace, in faith, and in love.**

Benediction

Three-fold Amen

Piano Postlude